

# Carolina country

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Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina Country is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (ISSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

Subscriptions: Individual subscriptions, \$8 per year. \$20 outside U.S.A.

Address Change: To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.



Printed on recycled paper

Advertising published in Carolina Country is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly sold to customers at the advertised price. The magazine, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and the member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted. Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform Carolina Country at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 875-3062.

Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (800) 662-7726.

#### HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

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© Kent Priestley

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Selecting the Mattamuskeet Sweet at Alligator River Growers in Hyde County. Photo © Kent Priestley.





By Michael E.C. Gery, editor

## Who wants to be a farmer?

One of the aims of this magazine and of the state's Touchstone Energy cooperatives is to promote economic development and prosperity in rural North Carolina. We are committed to shining a light on the rural economy to show not only where it's nice and bright, but also to point out where things could look better.

In some parts of rural North Carolina, tourism and small businesses are keeping the economy humming. In other parts, manufacturing facilities have closed down, fisheries are coming up short and good jobs are scarce. All 27 of the state's electric cooperatives have their finger on the pulse of the local economy and remain one of the most active players in trying to keep it healthy and helpful.

One sector that has seen better days is North Carolina's farm economy. Farms and farm families are especially important to electric cooperatives, because farmers formed the cooperatives as a means to improve living and working conditions in their communities.

The North Carolina State Grange, at work since the 1870s, continues its commitment to improving the quality of rural life through community service, legislative activities and youth leadership programs. The State Grange recently made a case that rural North Carolina, and farm families in particular, are going through an economic depression. Consider these observations that the State Grange published recently.

- Dairy farmers in 2002 saw some of the lowest prices in two decades, while their production costs increased. In 2002, there were approximately 66,000 milk cows on North Carolina farms compared to over 380,000 in 1994. North Carolina is now a milk-deficit state. We ship milk into the state in order to meet demand.
- Tobacco, once the state's number one cash crop, has seen deep cuts in its pricing program, reducing net farm income dramatically. In 1990, tobacco farmers harvested more than 266,000 acres yielding 541 million pounds. In 2002, the acreage had fallen by 36 percent to about 170,000 acres.
- The state's soybean production in 2002 was down approximately 30 percent from the previous year, mostly due to drought during the growing season.
- Cotton production, once on the increase, saw a sharp decline in 2002, due also to the weather. There were 50 percent fewer bales produced in 2002 than in the prior year: the fewest per acre in more than 20 years.
- Since 1985, more than half the state's farms have gone out of business.
- In 1950, North Carolina counted more than 300,000 farms. Today we have less than 60,000. We're losing farms at a rate of approximately 2,000 per year.

- In 1950, each farmer produced food for about 27 other people. Today, a farmer feeds over 130 people. One hour of farm labor in 2002 produced nearly eight times what it did 40 years ago.
- Meanwhile, we're paying less for food. The average family in 1950 paid 20 percent of its income for food, and today we pay about 10 percent for food.

All this adds up to bleak prospects for a North Carolina farmer, especially the family farms. No wonder that farm earnings in North Carolina dropped more than 23 percent between 2001 and 2002.

There is still some good news coming from the farm, as the N.C. State Grange and the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services point out.

- North Carolina is gaining in agricultural exports. Leading the way are hogs, chickens, greenhouse and nursery crops, tobacco and turkeys.
- North Carolina is still the nation's leading tobacco producer.
- We're No. 2 in hogs, Christmas trees, cucumbers for pickles, lima beans, trout and turkeys.
- We're No. 3 in peanuts and strawberries.

As our readers have said so soulfully in this month's Carolina Country, North Carolina can produce some of the best food you'll find anywhere.

So what can we do to help sustain North Carolina farms and farm families? Why is it that a place like Hyde County, with its plentiful, rich farmlands, has for so long hung on the lower rungs of the state's economic ladder?

Carolina Country this month also carries a story about Hyde County farmers who are using their heads as much as their hands to make things grow (see page 17). Wilson and Debbie Daughtry developed over the years a strain of onions that not only is well suited for the prime soil of Hyde County but has also found an expanding market. The Mattamuskeet Sweet onion represents a move to diversify crops at Alligator River Growers, which also produces grain, corn and soybeans, and is expanding its mail order business. Alligator River Growers may represent the future of farming in North Carolina.

Meantime, as we welcome this year's fresh produce season, we should pay attention to what is grown locally. We can visit local farmers markets regularly. And we can visit local farms themselves. Check out the new N.C. Farm Fresh online directory ([www.ncfarmfresh.com](http://www.ncfarmfresh.com)) to find pick-your-own and roadside stands. And when you see farmers out there, tell them they have your support.





### In the pumpkin patch

My husband grew this pumpkin in the barnyard. It grew on a stump. It weighed 109 pounds.

*Quinton W. Wilson  
Hertford*

### Reed Gold Mine

Our April magazine carried incorrect information about when Reed Gold Mine is open for visitors. The N.C. State Historic Site in Midland, east of Charlotte, is open April 1 – October 31, Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; November 1– March 31, Tuesday –Saturday, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday and most major holidays.

### Zero emission?

Since moving to North Carolina, I've enjoyed the Carolina Country magazine. However, the May 2003 issue [not all editions] contains a one-page article of environmentalist propaganda. Note well: Currently there is no such thing as a zero-emission electric vehicle. In any battery-powered vehicle, the source of "emissions" is merely temporarily moved from the vehicle's tailpipe to a distant location—the power plant generating the electricity required to recharge the batteries.

Even in the case of relatively non-polluting energy sources such as geothermal, hydro and wind, there is considerable despoliation of the natural environment. Have you ever seen one of the wind-turbine farms in California? Now that creates a nasty vista, if ever there was one. And the same is true for geothermal sites. The reservoirs created by dams required by hydro plants eternally destroy untold square miles of natural grandeur.

If I sound like an environmentalist nut run amok, I'm not by any means. I enjoy my modern conveniences as much as the next overindulgent American. I am only stating what should be the obvious: there is no free lunch.

Instead of wasting all this time and money on a dead-end technology, pour those resources into fuel-cell development. That technology is probably the closest we'll come to true zero-emission transportation for a very long time.

*Stephen N. Coci  
Fines Creek*

### Looking for a song

When I was growing up, my mother sang a song, "I Will Not Be a Stranger." I am hoping someone who has the words and music will be so kind as to mail me a copy.

*Phyllis Parker  
678 Pinehaven Drive  
New London, NC 28127  
E-mail: lparker@rtmc.net*

### Carolina Country online

Thank you so much for opening access to past issues of Carolina Country online ([www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com)).

My February issue disappeared unexpectedly. My husband sometimes gathers the newspapers and all that goes with them goes to the dumpster. I'm sure he would have never heard the last had I not been able to retrieve these beautiful quilt patterns ["Follow the Flying Geese," February 2003] from the Internet.

*Bessie Tyndall  
Pitt & Greene EMC*

### Thanks for electric power and cooperatives

This is just a quick note to thank the cooperatives for the great job you do. We had Union Electric back when we had Hurricane Hugo blow through Charlotte in 1989. Union was able to restore our power in a couple of days.

Since then, whenever we have a power outage, we know that you will be hard at work to get our power restored as soon as possible.

Please thank all the men and women for the great job they do, keeping simple folks like us blessed with electricity even during times of ice storms and downed power lines.

*Chip & Sherril Galloway  
Charlotte  
Union Power Cooperative*



### In strawberry fields

I took this picture of my son, Benjamin, at a strawberry farm here in Clinton.

*Ingrid Burgess  
Clinton*



## Central EMC general manager retires after 32 years at co-op



Wallie Lamm

Wallie Lamm has retired from Central Electric Membership Corporation in Sanford after 32 years with the cooperative. Lamm most recently held the position of CEO and general manager.

A Harnett County native, Lamm graduated from Benhaven High School and went to work as a lineman with Central EMC. He also served as

manager of operations and engineering. He and his wife Janice plan to travel, especially in the North Carolina and Tennessee mountains that they love.

Central EMC's board of directors has named Morris McClellion as interim general manager. McClellion began work with Central EMC in July 1999 as manager of business development and more recently was assistant general manager. He has a total of 28 years of utility experience, including nine years with Four County EMC in Burgaw.

## EnergyUnited students win state scholarships

Two students whose households are served by EnergyUnited electric cooperative received college scholarships from the cooperative's statewide services organization. The North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives gives three scholarships each year.

Dwayne Kinney lives in Lexington and will graduate from Central Davidson Senior High School. He received the Gwyn B. Price Memorial Scholarship as well as the Youth Leadership Council Scholarship. He was selected for the Youth Leadership Council award

by his peers who attended the 2002 Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington D.C. The recognition places him on a panel of youths nationwide who not only attend the national meeting of electric cooperatives, but also serve as advisors for a year to the national association of cooperatives. He plans to attend Wake Forest University.

Holly Lucas lives in Stony Point and will graduate from Alexander Central High School in Taylorsville. She has been the school's president of the Future Business Leaders of America and served on the Student Council four straight years. She also attended the Youth Tour last year. She plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill.



*Students who received scholarships from the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives were Dwayne Kinney Jr. (left) and Holly Lucas (right) with EnergyUnited's Chief Operating Officer Wayne T. Wilkins.*

Duane Salstrand

Randy Berger



*Meeting with the N.C. House Co-speakers are (from left) CEO of the cooperatives' statewide organizations Chuck Terrill, Rep. Richard Morgan, Rep. James Black, and Randy Brecheisen of Piedmont EMC, who is president of the statewide power supply board.*

## Co-speakers tell cooperatives they, too, can cooperate

The Co-speakers of the North Carolina House of Representatives visited recently with representatives of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. Rep. James B. Black, a Democrat from Matthews, and Rep. Richard T. Morgan, a Republican from Pinehurst, jointly hold the leadership post in the House, a landmark event in state history that is being watched closely by government officials nationwide.

Morgan and Black drove together to the meeting with the cooperatives' representatives in Raleigh, and in their remarks they vowed that "We will make this work."

Morgan, who has a farm in Randolph County and is a member of Randolph EMC, said cooperatives know that working together for common goals is a good way to make progress. So far in this session of the General Assembly, the shared speakership has succeeded in proving that Democrats and Republicans can cooperate.





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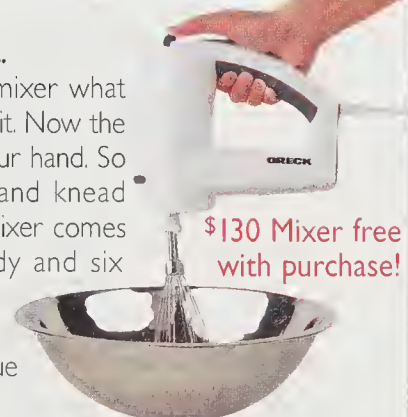
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## Historic Hope mansion marks 200 years of Bertie County plantation life

Hope Plantation is opening wide its stately double doors for a special party to mark its 200th birthday. Hope Plantation's Homecoming, set for Saturday, June 14, will include sharing of photographs and stories from descendents and former plantation residents, a picnic lunch and group tours.

Located in Bertie County four miles west of Windsor, Hope Plantation offers glimpses of late 18th- and 19th-century in eastern North Carolina as well as the life of its original owner, former North Carolina governor David Stone. Stone (1770-1818) was quite the Renaissance man, graduating first in his class from the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University). Though trained as a physician, Stone opted for law in North Carolina. At 19, Stone was a delegate to the 1789 state convention, and went on to serve as a superior court judge, a member of both houses of the U. S. Congress, and governor from 1808 to 1810. He had two wives, 11 children and even found time to design Hope Mansion before dying unexpectedly at the age of 48.

In Stone's time, operations at Hope included a water-powered grist mill, blacksmith shop, cooper's shop and weaving houses. Wheat, corn, oats, rye, flax and cotton were grown, and an estate inventory lists 138 African-American slaves. Today, the plantation's centerpiece is the 1803 mansion, an architectural combination of Federal and Georgian architecture. Restored after years of neglect, it opened to the public in 1972.

Rooms are meticulously furnished with Stone possessions and period pieces. Two stunning cabinets, examples of Roanoke River Basin craftsmanship, stand in the dining room.

The drawing room features one-piece flooring 30 feet long. But one of the best assets is a tall, deceptively ordinary-looking pole in the impressive library. Push its secret button, and surprise!, it folds out into a ladder. The kitchen was authentically reconstructed just last year. Outside, the five-bay façade features a pedimented double portico. The hipped roof is topped by a widow's walk.

The 1763 King-Bazemore house nearby literally joined the plantation when it was moved four miles from its original site to Hope Plantation. Built by Bertie County planter and cooper William King, the two-story structure is one of the few examples of mid-18th century "hall and parlor" design in North Carolina. Its original meat house and detached kitchen are also on the property.

Historic Hope Foundation staff has been seeking descendants of Stone and King's family and slaves, as well as families who once lived in the houses. "Last week I found a woman who had lived in the King-Bazemore house in the 1970s, and one of our docents, Miss Bunnie Mizelle, had also lived there as a child," says Lisa Briley, coordinator of education and programs.

The foundation's all-day Homecoming is part of a year-long anniversary celebration. Upcoming events include a heritage camp for kids July 21-25 and photography and artifact exhibit that premieres August 1. The mission of the non profit organization, served by Roanoke Electric Cooperative, is to provide educational, cultural and recreational benefits through the plantation's preservation. Membership levels start at \$25.

— Karen Olson House

**Hope Plantation:** Open to the public 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday; 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Exceptions for holidays — best to call ahead. Admission: \$6.50 for adults; \$6 for 65 and older; \$2 for students (any age with ID); 3 and younger, free. Call (252) 794-3140, visit [www.hopeplantation.org](http://www.hopeplantation.org) or email [hopeplantation@coastalnet.com](mailto:hopeplantation@coastalnet.com).



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# G Now, THAT'S D!

Carolina country produces some of the best eats anywhere. What do you think tastes best?

Maybe you've seen the list that begins "You Know You're From North Carolina If . . ."

- You know that Coke tastes better in the little bottles and that peanuts make the Coke taste even better.
- Your idea of a really good tenderloin is when the meat is twice as big as the bun and comes with cole slaw on top.
- You consider being a "Pork Queen" an honor.
- All festivals around the state are named after a fruit, vegetable, fish or tobacco.
- You know how to put molasses into a hot biscuit.

We have our own way of eating, and we know what we like. Published here are some of your ideas of "the finest North Carolina food," Carolina Country style. Thanks to everyone who wrote to us. See more on our Web site: [www.carolinacountry.com](http://www.carolinacountry.com) Go to page 12 to see the remaining themes in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series.

— Michael E.C. Gery



## The tomato (with salt and Papa)

The best food in North Carolina hands down is the tomato. A tomato sandwich with mayonnaise is a classic, Southern summer dish. Add a fresh, buttered ear of corn, and your meal is complete. For a little variety, add cucumbers to your tomato sandwich. Or how about the famous BLT sandwich? For those of us who grew up in the country, a slice of tomato on a freshly baked homemade biscuit will make your mouth water.

During the summers of my childhood, I remember going out to the garden in the evening with my Papa Eli and gathering the vegetables. Once back at the house, Papa would have me pick out a tomato, and he would clean it and get the salt. We would then proceed to eat the tomato like you would an apple. Nothing tastes as good as eating a freshly picked tomato with a little salt and Papa.

*Michelle Callicutt  
Carthage  
Randolph EMC*

## Kreme donut with milk

The finest food in North Carolina is an oven-fresh, original glazed donut from Krispy Kreme. A single bite of just one of these soft, melt-in-your-mouth morsels brings with it an overwhelming sensation of satisfaction, unmatched by anything you have or will ever taste. These pastries are so sweet that you feel a rush of energy, even after the smallest nibble, as the saccharine scrumptiousness stirs your taste buds into a frenzy.

Alone, these donuts are wonderful, but what's even better is eating them alongside a large glass of creamy milk. The refreshing milk and invigorating donuts are so compatible that when partaking of the two together, you feel you are experiencing a small part of heaven.

*Jonathan Gunson  
Butler High School  
Matthews*

## Scallops

My criteria for choosing "The Finest Food in North Carolina" include taste, availability and cost. My vote goes to the scallop. Not only is it tasty right out of the shell, it can be pan-fried in butter, baked, deep fried or prepared just about any way you choose. It can be served by itself, in or with anything from soup to linguini, and takes no time to prepare.

Scallops are available to Tar Heels everywhere, including restaurants, food stores, local docks and roadside stands, always at reasonable prices. They can also be taken personally in the coastal sounds and marshes by wading or drifting in a small boat or offshore by dragging the bottom. Taken in small





quantities, there is no fee or license required, and permits for larger quantities are inexpensive.

In our house, scallops are often both an appetizer and the main course. When eating out, my "choice of two" (or three) always includes scallops.

How can I be sure scallops are the finest? We serve friends and guests everything from barbecue to crabs, from flounder and shrimp to venison, but their eyes light up at the mention of my wife's scallop dishes.

*Bert Speicher  
Emerald Isle  
Carteret-Craven Electric*

## Shrimp

What is North Carolina's finest food? That is an easy question. Why, the shrimp, of course.

Who can resist the sight of a big pot of shrimp boiling and the smell of the spices, knowing that soon you will be peeling hot shrimp and dunking them in a big bowl of spicy hot cocktail sauce? I certainly can't.

Fresh shrimp are available from street vendors or fish markets all season. Or, if you are very lucky and have a boat, you can catch your own shrimp and bring them home for the best meal you ever had. Simply pinch off the heads and throw them into a pot of boiling hot water with your favorite spice.

For another taste treat, batter fry the shrimp and watch the faces of your family light up as you put them on the table. Add some sauce for dipping, and a once-noisy room of yelling kids will suddenly be quiet and content. Shrimp is the favorite food of my family. It is North Carolina's finest meal no matter how you fix it.

*Janet Hammer  
Emerald Isle  
Carteret-Craven Electric*

## God's Country barbecue

Barbecue, barbecue, barbecue. Best in the free world.

I was born and grew up in the Tar Heel State and left to pursue my career aspirations in other parts of this great country. In Texas, I met my wonderful wife, got married and started a family (two boys now). I moved them all to Indiana to be closer to our families. Although I enjoyed the time that I spent in Texas, and

now in the Heartland, I have to come back to "God's Country" to get good barbecue. Not too heavy on the red sauce, but spicy and hearty, with side dishes that are worth their weight in gold (coleslaw, beans, hush puppies, potato salad, iced tea, etc.) I get hungry, just thinking about it!

*Mark Gilliland  
Clyde  
Seasonal member of Haywood EMC*



## Lexington barbecue

I have eaten barbecue in the eastern and western parts of North Carolina, Virginia and Texas. None compared to the barbecue cooked in Lexington.

I ate some good barbecue while traveling in Pooler, Georgia. Don Yates moved from Lexington to Pooler, and he introduced the people there to Lexington-style barbecue. The barbecue dip (sauce) and pit-cooked pork shoulders can't be beat, in my opinion.

I have seen people who travel through Lexington stop and fill large coolers with barbecue meat, dip and the good barbecue slaw. Thousands come to Lexington every year in October for our Barbecue Festival.

I'm so glad that my uncle taught me how to make the dip before he passed away. I can prepare my own dip and put it on pork, beef, chicken or venison, or just dip hushpuppies in it.

Be sure you stop in Lexington and try some Lexington-style barbecue.

*Darlene Owens  
Lexington  
Energy United*

## Eastern barbecue

The finest food in North Carolina is barbecue. Not just any barbecue, but the barbecue found in the eastern part of the state.

Eastern North Carolina barbecue is made from delicious pork, vinegar and red pepper. The pork is so tender it will melt in your mouth. Scrumptious spices add to the pleasure of this delicacy.

Enhancing the barbecue, which definitely can stand alone, are french fries, red coleslaw, hush puppies, rolls or buns. This wonderful entrée can be served on paper plates or china plates. It can be served at a formal occasion or a cookout. One of the most common ways to eat eastern barbecue is at a "pig-pickin'." The hog is cooked overnight to perfection in an open pit. Guests can then "pick" their portions and devour.

Don't worry about your blood pressure. Remove all of the fat, and you have the leanest, healthiest white meat available.

*Tamara Nifong  
Lexington  
EnergyUnited*

## Sweet tea

Growing up a southern girl in North Carolina as part of an oversized family, I have always been surrounded by nothing but the most wonderful southern meals and extraordinary cooks.

Trying to single out one particular food in such a vast group seems almost impossible, especially because they all work together to create an incredible meal. The South has always prided itself on such delicious cuisine as fried chicken, biscuits, green beans, potatoes—all extremely important in preparing a perfect southern dish. So, considering this, I realized just about the only southern specialty that stands alone and can top off each one of these great foods would have to be sweet tea.

Sweet tea is the essence of southern spirit, brought out through our cooking. Sweet tea not only can be found almost anywhere in the South, it is also unique to the South. In many cases, the most amazing tea comes straight from the family kitchen. Each person can make their tea their own.

*Hannah Thornton  
Butler High School  
Matthews*

*continued on p. 12*



## Mama's biscuits, gravy and livermush

I grew up in Caldwell County as the second of nine children in the family. As long as I can remember, Mama had an old, oblong wooden bowl she kept in the cupboard with flour in it and covered with cheesecloth. As far as I know, every day of her married life Mama fixed biscuits for breakfast, except for the times she went to the hospital to bring home another sister or brother.

Even in the many years I lived away from home, each time I visited, no matter for how long or short a time, I would be awakened by the smell of biscuits, gravy and usually fried livermush. Of course, she knew these were my favorites, and she never failed to treat me every day I was home.

Mama passed away 13 years ago, but each time I close my eyes and concentrate, I still smell those fabulous smells and taste the wonderful flavor of Mama's homemade biscuits and gravy. Even though to me, the "finest food in North Carolina" is gone, the memories of it and my Mama will live with me forever.

*Steve Angley  
Grover Beach, Cal.  
Haywood EMC*

## Cake and fried chicken

My all-around first favorite, finest food is the famous North Carolina Pig Pickin' Cake. It excels. But a close second is a cake made my Mrs. Vida Faircloth of Peter's Creek. And a third choice is the fried chicken at Lakewood Plaza.

I just couldn't narrow down to one thing.

*Candy Jones  
Roseboro  
South River EMC*

## Cheerwine

During the summer, when the North Carolina sun is beating down on my back, the only drink that I want to grab is the North Carolina-made Cheerwine. No other soft drink can compare to the way Cheerwine tastes and feels. Some people might reach for a bland water or an imposter cherry soft drink, but they wouldn't be getting the same satisfaction as I would. Cheerwine has to be the best thing to come out of North Carolina since Michael Jordan.

There's just something about the way the red-tinted drink fills my cup and the fizz jumps up from the top like it's on fire. As I reach for the glass, my taste buds start to melt. I can't stand it anymore. I bring the glass to my mouth, take a huge gulp and I'm in heaven. Ahh! My thirst is quenched the best way it can be.

If North Carolina were to enter a contest for the best drink in the world, we would definitely win first prize every time. North Carolina's Cheerwine is absolutely the one and only drink to have when quenching your thirst on a hot summer day.

*Ryan Dunham  
Butler High School  
Matthews*

## Apples

This is a hard choice! I mean, what could be better than North Carolina seafood, barbecue, sweet potatoes, strawberries, sweet corn or tomato sandwiches? Maybe one thing has an edge: North Carolina apples.

I know some people who do not care that much for seafood or even barbecue. But I do not know of anyone who doesn't like apples in some form or another. That in itself is one beauty of apples. Think of how many ways you eat them: in a pie, in a fresh apple cake, baked in the oven, raw in a salad, or our favorite way – cooked in an old iron frying pan.

Then there is the variety grown here in North Carolina: Red and Yellow Delicious, Winesap, Limbertwig and a recent favorite, the Gala. You can find them fresh beginning in August. You can find them in Lincolnton, Taylorsville, Wilkesboro, Hendersonville and other western North Carolina towns. But I like to find them on a tree, pull one, wipe it off and eat it. Let the juice run down the side of my mouth!

*Ralph Powell  
Statesville  
EnergyUnited*



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# Power TO THE POST

By Suzanne Shoaf Ward

The Army chooses a service company formed by four cooperatives to take over the electric distribution system at Fort Bragg

**O**ur nation's armed forces usually have more important things to do than look after the electrical wires and poles at their training facilities. So it made sense to the U.S. Department of Defense in 1997 to consider turning over military base utility systems to people who are in the business of running utilities. Here in North Carolina, where we host more military bases than any other state, the electric service industry responded with a loud and clear, "Roger that."

When the world's largest military base — the Army's Fort Bragg, including the Air Force's Pope Air Force Base — went looking for someone to take over its electric distribution system, power companies lined up for inspection. Duke Energy was there. Enron was there. Fayetteville Municipal was there. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives were there, too.

Fort Bragg chose the cooperatives.

The cooperatives responded to the military's request in the same business style that has served their member-owners well for more than 60 years: they figured they could work better collectively than alone. The four Touchstone Energy cooperatives who supply electric service to areas bordering Fort Bragg — Central EMC in Sanford, Lumbie River EMC in



82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne training at Fort Bragg.

Red Springs, Pee Dee EMC in Wadesboro, and South River EMC in Dunn — formed Sandhills Utility Services and went to work as a group.

"Our journey as a member of Sandhills Utility Services is another wonderful example of cooperatives working together to accomplish a common goal," said Donnie Spivey, CEO at Pee Dee EMC.

## Power for Fort Bragg

If Fort Bragg and Pope AFB were considered a city — a 200-square-mile city spanning the northern regions of Hoke and Cumberland counties, and reaching into Moore and Harnett — it would rank in population close to Rocky Mount and ahead of Chapel Hill. It is no simple matter to supply safe, reliable, affordable electric power to a base comprising more than 56,000 military personnel and civilians, their housing, their training facilities and some very large equipment. First, you have to study the place: test the equipment, assess environmental issues, examine the existing distribution system, prioritize where work needs to be done, draft a service plan. Impressed with their proposal to do all that, the Army chose Sandhills Utility Services to advance to the next step — a formal proposal to take over the post's electric system for the next 50 years.

After reviewing the final proposal, the Army told Sandhills the job is theirs. Sandhills began work March 24, 2003. Four days earlier, President George W. Bush announced a military campaign in Iraq, and a strike force hit Iraq's capital of Baghdad. The men and women of Fort Bragg were on the job.

"It is a unique time to be starting this endeavor with the troops defending our nation over in Iraq and in Afghanistan," said Jerry Hartgrove, general manager of Sandhills. "We are proud and honored to be working with one of the most powerful and important military bases in the nation." He noted that the majority of the fighting force in the United States goes through Fort Bragg at some point in their military careers.

Jerry Hartgrove himself is no stranger to Fort Bragg or electric distribution systems. For 30 years he worked with Carolina Power & Light (now Progress Energy).



More recently he headed the Harnett County Economic Development Commission, which interacts regularly with the local military.

Fort Bragg opened in 1918 as "Camp Bragg" to prepare the nation's artillery forces for World War I. Some of the electrical system dates back to those days when electrical power itself was new. Because the system was designed and built over the years by numerous contractors, Hartgrove says, "there sometimes is a lack of uniformity. Surprisingly though, it is in pretty good shape."

Maintaining electric service on a military base is not exactly the same as it is in North Carolina's residential and business communities. The contract encompasses almost everything that requires electricity on the post. Sandhills will own and operate the system, supplying power to housing, storage facilities, hangars, offices, virtually anything that needs electricity. The post's buildings occupy 28 million square feet. There are 4,700 family housing units. Along Bragg's 300-some miles of surfaced roads are more than 412 miles of electric power lines and four substations. Sandhills considers the post as one customer, and will send one monthly bill to the facility's headquarters. The price of power usage will be charged at a fixed rate. New connections, poles, construction requests and additional services carry additional charges.

During the transitional period, Sandhills will learn a great deal from the people who have held the civilian jobs of maintaining the system and will continue working there.

"The changeover should be rather seamless," said David Dozier, vice president of finance and accounting for South River EMC. "We have established a great partnership with the officials at Fort Bragg and Pope Air Force Base, and we look



Photo courtesy of Fort Bragg Paraglide

Womack Army Medical Center facility at Fort Bragg will be served by Sandhills Utility Services.

forward to working closely with the nation's fastest growing military post."

The transition period may last as long as two years. During that time, Sandhills plans to look closely at the existing power lines, mile by mile, and make necessary replacements to bring the system up to industry standards.

"We changed a pole out the other day," Hartgrove said in May, "a simple, routine task that the co-ops do all the time. The folks on Fort Bragg looked at us when we were finished and said, 'We have been waiting for this kind of service for three years now. Thank you.'"

Besides a new brand of customer service, Sandhills also brings new technology to the post. They will use a SCADA system (Supervising Control and Data Acquisition) to acquire real-time information on electricity problems at the facility. And they are developing an electronic map that will detail the entire electrical system and detect outages. "I can assure you, we are not going to let Fort Bragg stay in the dark," said a confident Buddy Creed, CEO of South River EMC. "When every military man or woman returns home to Fort Bragg, they are going to want the lights on, and that's exactly what we are going to do."

Security access is another high priority at Fort Bragg, especially since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the war in Iraq. Some places are more sensitive than others, making it challenging for Sandhills, a relatively new face on post, to get access.

"We respect the fact that security on base is of utmost importance," said Hartgrove.

## A cooperative investment

The 116,000 members of the four Touchstone Energy cooperatives that created Sandhills Utility Services stand to benefit from Sandhills' relationship with Fort Bragg. Those cooperatives formed Sandhills Utility Services as a for-profit, limited liability corporation. It is a stand-alone company with its own manager, employees, trucks, equipment and its own facility on the post.

The cooperatives that own Sandhills will provide mutual aid in the event of a natural disaster. "Cooperatives have a long-standing policy of helping each other in times of need," said Buddy Creed of South River EMC. "It is this power of human connections that Touchstone Energy cooperatives have demonstrated over and over again."

Any profits that Sandhills realizes from this service can help stabilize rates for the cooperatives that have invested in the enterprise. "Sandhills will help to provide a financial backbone for the cooperative, which is important with the uncertainty of the future of deregulation," said Creed. "Sandhills Utility Services is an investment on behalf of the membership."

Besides the potential business benefit to the cooperatives' membership, the work that Sandhills does at Fort Bragg carries great pride for the cooperatives.

"To play a small support role for these valiant men and women by providing electric service to their bases is an exciting opportunity and a great responsibility," said Morris McClellion, interim general manager at Central EMC. "It also speaks highly about the level of cooperation between our four electric companies and cooperatives in general. The Army's selection process was a long and arduous task, but the end result points to the credibility that cooperatives now have, as well as their ability and determination to serve any load."

South River's Buddy Creed remembers almost four years ago when a distinguished and solemn man named Colonel Sherrin met with the electric companies vying to serve Fort Bragg. The colonel said very clearly that if anyone expects to deliver anything less than the best possible service, "you can hit the door now." The four cooperatives and the Sandhills Utility Services management will not forget that expectation, Creed said. "Colonel Sherrin is not the kind of man you want to let down." ■

*Suzanne Shoaf Ward is a community relations specialist with the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.*

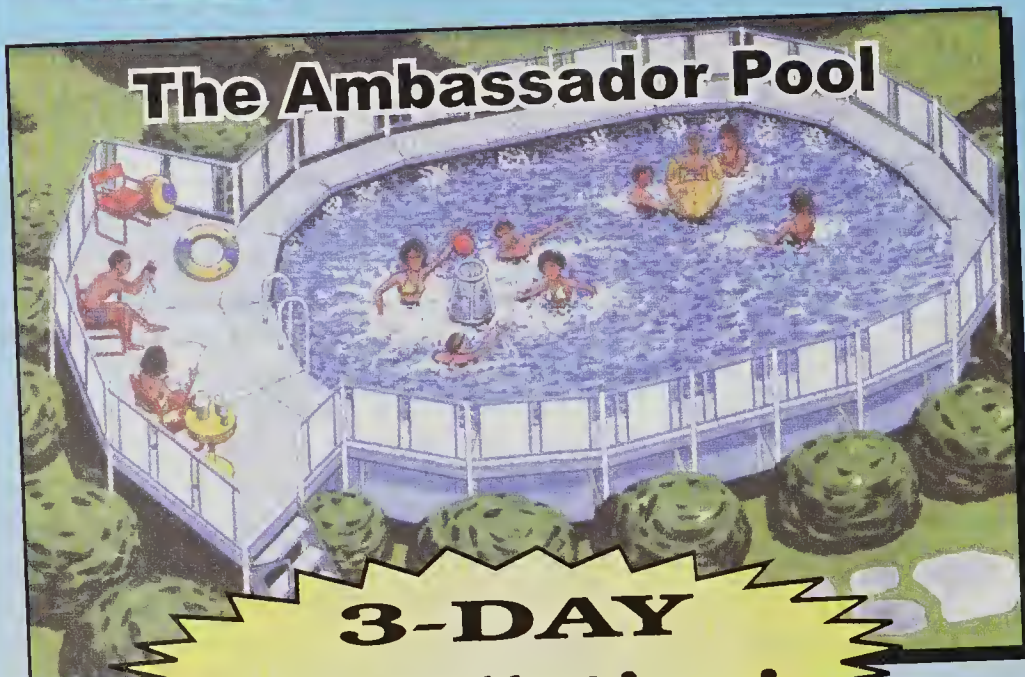


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# The sweet ONION

## of Hyde County's blacklands

by Carla Burgess

There's high demand for the amazing  
Mattamuskeet Sweet Onion from Alligator River Growers

Ancient Egyptians often decorated their dead with onions before mummification, according to scholars, because they believed the aroma would prompt the deceased to breathe again. Clearly, those onions were nothing like the ones Wilson Daughtry grows. His mild, sweet variety would awaken only the lightest of sleepers.

On a farm in Engelhard, 75 miles due east of Washington, Daughtry is summoning a crop not traditionally sown in North Carolina. Onions, let alone sweet varieties, aren't grown on a large scale anywhere else in the state. But for nine years now, the bulbing vegetable has found a comfortable home in the highly organic soils of this Hyde County farm. Here in eastern North Carolina's "blacklands," Daughtry is making his mark with a no-tears onion he believes is more appealing than a Vidalia.

Just a breeze shy of the vast Pamlico Sound, the 100-acre fields yield 40,000 pounds of sweet treats labeled and sold as "Mattamuskeet Sweet Onions." (The farm lies about 5 miles east of the state's largest natural lake, Lake Mattamuskeet.) Daughtry believes the buffering effect of the sound moderates temperatures, allowing him to overwinter the fall-seeded crop for a June harvest. The result is a plump, mild onion whose flavor has earned it a reputation around these parts.

Every year, Wilbur Oliver, 74, of Columbia drives his pickup to Engelhard to load up 50-pound bags of Mattamuskeet Sweet Onions. It's 86 miles there and back, but Oliver says it's worth the ride. "I like 'em better than any onion I've tried," he says. Last year, Oliver brought home 2 tons of onions in 85 bags. One year, he hitched a trailer and hauled 125 bags.

continued on p. 18



Oliver's wife died 12 years ago, and he says he cooks very little. But his onions don't gather dust. Oliver gives them to widows, friends, relatives, "old folks" and the man who sells him tires for his truck. "The other day a friend said, 'Buddy, isn't it about time for the onions to come off again?' I said yes, I've got your name at the top of the list."

As word of the savory product has spread, Daughtry, 41, and his wife, Debbie, 39, have cultivated a lively new market for their onions. It started when walk-in customers said they wished there was a way to get the onions to friends and relatives. The Daughtrys decided to try a mail-order venture in which they'd ship the onions in 10-pound and 40-pound cartons. Today, they ship thousands of mail-order cartons. Debbie says one customer paid nearly \$80 in freight to send a box to a friend in Hawaii.

So what's so special about a Mattamuskeet Sweet Onion? The market is flooded with sweet onions from all over the country—Washington's Walla Walla, Texas' SuperSweets, Georgia's Vidalias and California's Sweet Imperials, to name a few. Sweet onions are considered a "fresh" onion, lightly cured to encourage a delicate, papery layer for protection. They typically last a few weeks to a couple of months. The Mattamuskeet is available for a short time—early June through late July—and Daughtry has no interest in improving the shelf life. The rarity keeps the onion in demand and its price stable.

The onion's shape also is distinctive—unlike the flattened, elliptical Vidalia, the Mattamuskeet is globe-shaped, arguably easier to slice and more substantial after the top and bottom are pared. It's somewhat bigger than a Vidalia—averaging 4 inches—and stores slightly longer. Daughtry says the onion retains its unique flavor even after cooking. His favorite recipe is a cored onion stuffed with butter, drizzled with soy sauce and baked in foil atop a grill.

But there's more to this onion than what you see and taste. The local specialty is the product of a lot of love, a little ingenuity, and a determined, if not stubborn, will to make it grow. Six would-be onion farmers in Hyde County preceded Daughtry and were not able to withstand the obstacles of weed infestation and varieties that simply weren't suitable or desirable. One of those initial growers, local agricul-

ture extension agent Mac Gibbs, says Daughtry has been downright tenacious.

"He saw potential and has been willing to do what it took to make this a successful venture," says Gibbs, who continues to advise Daughtry, provide technical support and help with variety trials. He says Daughtry has expended considerable capital and invested in research. And he knows how to sell his business to financiers and brokers. The onion facility is an impressive combination of specialized equipment and engineering. The production warehouse itself is an acre in size.

The character of an onion depends on soil, climate and weather. Gibbs says that the majority of onions in the United States are grown on "muck" soils. Indeed in April, the field felt as sticky and spongy as an exposed tidal flat. The same peat that formed the bed of Lake Mattamuskeet fuels the fertile soils of Hyde County farmland.

The sweetness of an onion is determined by the balance between sugar content and pyruvic acid (the sulfuric compound that causes tears to flow). While those factors can be measured scientifically, the ultimate flavor is subjective. It comes down to each person's palate.

Daughtry trusts his taste buds to decide whether a variety stays or gets the boot.

In spite of the success so far, the Daughtrys haven't put all their eggs in one gunnysack. Alligator River Growers is still primarily a grain farm, with corn, soybeans, onions and a few snap beans on 4,500 acres, both leased and owned. The Daughtrys plan to expand their mail-order inventory to include autumn specialty baskets of Indian corn and ornamental pumpkins and gourds. Wilson even envisions buying a small tour bus that will show Outer Banks tourists around the farm for a certain price per head. He'll give each one a parting gift of onions. "I think it would work," says Wilson excitedly, as Debbie smiles in a manner that suggests patience and leniency.

Daughtry sunk his teeth into farming when he moved to Engelhard in 1984.

The son of a retired Johnston County farmer, he had just earned a degree in agricultural economics from N.C. State University. He quickly graduated from managing someone else's farm to operating his own. Wilson also married Debbie, a native of nearby Fairfield, and they have a 6-year-old daughter, Miranda. Debbie also has a son, Michael, 23, who



The bagging operation at Alligator River Growers.





Wilson Daughtry with some sweet, young onions.

attends East Carolina University. Her mom is the Fairfield postmaster, and her father worked for the U.S. Forest Service.

By the time U.S. 264 reaches Engelhard, it's a winding, two-lane black-top, and the town just a bend in the road. Engelhard has a small hotel for folks passing through, a restaurant, a place to gas up the car and little else. Asked what they do for fun, Wilson says, "Farm."

*Carla Burgess is a freelance writer in Raleigh. Carolina Country also has published her stories about collards, rural transportation and solar energy.*

## Mattamuskeet Sweet Onion Recipe

This was the Grand Prize Winner of the Mattamuskeet Sweet Onion Recipe Contest sponsored last year by Tideland Electric and Carolina Country magazine.

### Homemade Salsa

Delia C. Mooney  
Fairfield, NC

2 gallons tomatoes (peeled, chopped)  
5 pounds Mattamuskeet sweet onions (peeled, chopped)  
2 pounds green bell pepper (chopped)  
3 tablespoons salt  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup vinegar  
2 tablespoons garlic  
1 gallon silver queen corn (cut off cob)  
½ cup hot sauce

Wash all ingredients first. Peel the tomatoes and chop. Peel the Mattamuskeet Sweet onions and chop, then add to the tomatoes, chopped bell pepper, salt, sugar, vinegar, garlic, corn and hot sauce. Cook all ingredients until done, about 1 hour, stirring often. A red acid will rise to the top; skim off the bubbles and discard. Mixture should be thick. Cool if you plan to serve immediately. Serve with chips. Makes enough for a party.

### Contact the grower

Visitors to Alligator River Growers can buy a 50-pound bag of Mattamuskeet Sweet Onions for as little as \$7. The premium, hand-selected onions are \$6 for a 10-pound box, and \$16 for the 40-pound carton (add shipping for mail orders). Call the toll-free customer number, (877) 430-6768. E-mail: ARG@beachlink.com. Web site: [www.alligatorrivergrowers.com](http://www.alligatorrivergrowers.com)

### How to find it fresh from the farm

The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has made it easier for you to find produce fresh from the field, or to pick berries or cut Christmas trees. The new Web site called North Carolina Farm Fresh contains a directory of pick-your-own farms, roadside farm markets and farmers markets from the mountains to the coast. The site can also help you find in-season, locally grown fruits, vegetables, trees, ornamental plants, flowers and herbs. The directory ranges from apples and honey to pumpkins and pine needles. Many markets offer hayrides, holiday shows, cornfield mazes and tours. You may sign up for e-mail updates about fresh product availability, too. Check out the site at [www.ncfarmfresh.com](http://www.ncfarmfresh.com).





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27	----	----	12.34	11.11	14.88	12.91	24.50	20.56
28	----	----	12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
29	----	----	12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
30	----	----	12.34	11.20	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
31	----	----	12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
32	----	----	12.34	11.29	14.88	13.13	24.50	21.00
33	----	----	12.43	11.38	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
34	----	----	12.43	11.46	14.88	13.34	24.50	21.44
35	----	----	12.43	11.64	14.88	13.56	24.50	21.88
36	----	----	12.78	11.99	15.53	14.22	25.81	23.19
37	----	----	13.21	12.51	16.41	15.31	27.56	25.38
38	----	----	13.56	13.04	17.06	16.41	28.88	27.56
39	----	----	14.09	13.74	17.94	17.50	30.63	29.75
40	----	----	14.61	14.35	19.03	18.81	32.81	32.38
41	----	----	15.66	14.96	20.78	19.91	36.31	34.56
42	----	----	16.98	15.66	22.97	21.22	40.69	37.19
43	----	----	18.11	16.10	25.38	22.09	45.50	38.94
44	----	----	19.51	16.71	27.78	23.41	50.31	41.56
45	----	----	21.18	17.59	30.63	24.94	56.00	44.63
46	----	----	22.49	18.20	33.03	26.03	60.81	46.81
47	----	----	24.33	19.08	36.53	27.56	67.81	49.88
48	----	----	26.16	20.04	39.81	29.31	74.38	53.38
49	----	----	28.18	20.83	43.75	30.84	82.25	56.44
50	----	----	30.36	21.96	47.91	33.03	90.56	60.81

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52	----	----	35.35	24.59	56.88	37.84	108.50	70.44
53	----	----	38.06	26.16	61.91	40.69	118.56	76.13
54	----	----	40.86	27.65	67.38	43.31	129.50	81.38
55	----	----	44.36	29.58	73.72	46.81	142.19	88.38
56	----	----	50.31	32.73	84.66	51.84	164.06	98.44
57	----	----	56.96	35.96	96.91	57.31	188.56	109.38
58	----	----	64.14	39.64	110.03	63.00	214.81	120.75
59	----	----	71.23	43.31	123.16	69.13	241.06	133.00
60	----	----	80.15	47.86	139.56	76.34	273.88	147.44
61	----	----	86.01	52.24	150.28	83.34	295.31	161.44
62	----	----	93.80	57.93	164.50	92.53	323.75	179.81
63	----	----	101.50	63.61	178.94	101.72	352.63	198.19
64	----	----	109.38	69.21	193.38	110.91	381.50	216.56
65	----	----	119.09	76.30	211.31	122.28	417.38	239.31
66	----	----	133.96	84.18	241.28	137.38	477.31	269.50
67	----	----	153.65	94.68	281.75	157.28	558.25	309.31
68	----	----	173.43	105.18	322.00	177.41	638.75	349.56
69	----	----	193.29	115.76	362.25	197.75	719.25	390.25
70	----	----	218.05	128.98	412.78	222.91	820.31	440.56

Call for more information

Additional ages and amounts  
with guaranteed rates (of course)  
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Premiums illustrated represent 15 year level term insurance with guaranteed level premiums for 15 years (not all forms available in all states). \$100,000 rates are LTG Ultra-C 15 Select Class II, [policy form no. LTG-C-01 AG Preferred Non-tobacco]. \$250,000 - \$500,000 rates are LTG Ultra 15 Select Class II [policy form no. LTG 2000AG non-tobacco]. It is issued by American General Life Insurance Company, Houston, TX. Medical examination required. Premiums increase at the end of the guaranteed term if policy is renewed. Premiums for other rate classes, age and payment plans are available upon request. Death benefit remains level and is payable in lump sum, or installments, if so elected. The insurance company may contest the policy for two years from date of policy issue for material misstatements or omissions on the application. Death benefit payable from any cause, except suicide within first two policy years. In the event of suicide in the first two years, policy benefit is limited to return of premium paid. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES. American General Life Insurance Company is a member of the American International Group, Inc. The underwriting risks, financial obligations and support functions associated with the products issued by American General Life Insurance Company are solely its responsibility. American General Life is responsible for its own individual financial condition and contractual obligations.

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AMT. OF INS. DESIRED \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ TOBACCO ☐ NON-TOBACCO  
HOME PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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AMT. OF INS. DESIRED \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ TOBACCO ☐ NON-TOBACCO  
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**"Found art" on the beach****"Wildflowers"**

## Blue Ridge art

Vivian Johnson Bollin, also known as V.J.B., was an artist and freelance writer who lived in Allegheny County. Bollin, who died at age 83, painted pictures of the Blue Ridge mountains, scenic cabins and the Mabry Mill on the Parkway. Her daughter, Lark B. Futch of Wilmington, is offering giclée prints of her mother's artwork, including note cards, prints of still lifes, flowers and seasonal landscapes, and Bollins' reproductions of Currier and Ives settings. Prices for standard frame size prints range from \$20 (without mat) to \$55 (matted). 16-by-20 or 18-by-24 inches. Notecards from \$3-\$5. Call (910) 350-0283 or e-mail Ms. Futch at Masterlark@aol.com.

## "Found art" on the beach

Ocean Treasures Promotions, Inc., recently participated in an unusual tourist attraction program on Jekyll Island in Georgia. Jekyll Island staff and volunteers placed 180 artglass floats on their beaches throughout January and February. Beachcombers who found them took their surprise souvenir to a welcome center for registering and picture taking. Ocean Treasures owners Faith and Fraiser Bingham, who have a home

in Boone and work out of Tallahassee, Fla., would like to develop a similar program in North Carolina coastal communities. They hope to use North Carolina glassblowers' pieces. The floats would cost a beach placement program about \$30 each. The floats themselves would sell in local retail shops for more than \$60. Call (800) 587-0727.

## "Wildflowers"

Jonathan Byrd's CD features folk, Irish, blues and bluegrass music, with clear guitar, dobro, mandolin and fiddle and Byrd's poetic lyrics. In "The Sparrow," the Carrboro resident touches on freedom and desire. "When I was a sparrow, flyin' low, I'd fill the wind wherever I go. When I was a fire in your soul, whispered into prayer soft and low. Then I heard you callin' me, like a beacon on the sea." Recorded in Chapel Hill with Byrd and other North Carolina musicians, the 16-track CD includes the traditional "Molly Dear," "Ashe County Fair" and "Eli's Cotton Gin," which the singer dedicates to farm workers. Byrd won North Carolina's Songwriter's Co-op "Song of the Year" in 2000. "Wildflowers" is \$15. Visit [www.jonathanbyrd.com](http://www.jonathanbyrd.com) or call (919) 545-3081.

## Serendipitous museum

St. James Place, a restored Primitive Baptist church in Robersonville, serves as an example of late clapboard Gothic revival architecture, as well as a quaint museum featuring folk art, antique decoys and pottery. More than 100 North Carolina quilts are displayed, including 42 African-American examples. Free admission. Call before going. Visit [www.visitmartincounty.com](http://www.visitmartincounty.com) or call (919) 795-4006 or (252) 795-4576.

## Visit the Carolina Country Store

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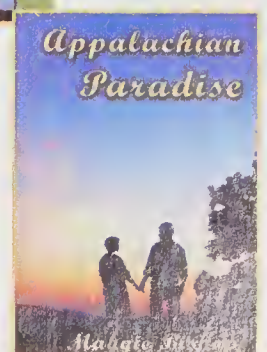
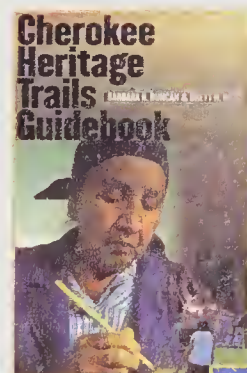
## ON THE BOOKSHELF

### "Cherokee Heritage Trails"

Enriched by Cherokee voices, this new guidebook journeys into the homeland of the Western band of Cherokee Indians in the mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. Organized around geographical hubs within the original homeland, authors Barbara R. Duncan and Brett H. Riggs provide a history timeline, and describe sites, scenic drives and events such as fairs and festivals. Readers are invited to look beyond easily visible aspects of Cherokee culture and find a deeper heritage through Cherokee stories, poems, folk arts and philosophy. Featured sites include The Museum of the Cherokee Indian in Cherokee and Unicoi Turnpike Trail, part of the Trail of Tears. The University of North Carolina Press. Softcover, 368 pages, \$16.95. 131 color photographs, 11 maps. Visit [www.uncpress.unc.edu](http://www.uncpress.unc.edu) or call (919) 966-3829.

### "Appalachian Paradise"

This romance novel by Maggie Bishop of Deep Gap centers on the testy sparks between an athletic career woman and a rugged backwoodsman. Suzanne, a software programmer and control freak, meets her match in protective Wes, an Appalachian Dundee-type who packs charm to spare. He's been chosen to accompany her on a five-day backpacking trek through Pisgah National Forest. She knows how to organize kitchen cabinets and needs to relax. He knows that apples grow on the southern side of clearings and is more sophisticated than he appears. Both headstrong, they're drawn to each other. But does their tension abate? Will romance bloom as profusely as the mountain rhododendron? High Country Publishers in Boone. Softcover, 172 pages, \$9.95. Call (828) 964-0590.







*He really loved the outdoors and would not stay inside much at all except to sleep and eat.*

# Good-bye D<sup>to</sup>addy

*by Letha Mae Humphrey*

h

e was my giant, my tree I looked up to.

My Daddy had nine children. We were his gold. We were happy, even though we couldn't afford much. We had food on our table, shoes on our feet and clean clothes to wear. He was a poor man, but rich with children and a wife. He didn't think of being poor. He was a proud man and took real good care of Mama.

My Daddy worked by the day most of his life. He worked at the warehouse most of the time and the formica plant. He taught me to do a day's work for a day's pay and to never spend your last dollar. He always asked what he owed you. He would even ask what he owed you when he was given a gift. He would ask you to have something to eat with us even with just a mouthful on the table.

He never wanted what he didn't have.

My Daddy, Raymond Elbert Lee Penny, passed away June 9, 1999, with kidney and pneumonia problems. He was 82 years young when he left Mama and us. I didn't get to say good-bye to my Daddy.

He was a frontiersman. He really loved the outdoors and would not stay inside much at all except to sleep and eat. He could build anything he might. He was a veterinarian in his neighborhood. If anyone needed his help, he could do it all. I miss him a lot. Folks say it will get easier, but not so for me.

I still see Daddy in his barn making things and fixing our torn up shoes.

Daddy raised chickens, and they would come up on our porches and poop. They would eat cat food left over and scratch for bugs and worms. They were too young to lay eggs, yet sometimes they would go in the door to the kitchen if the screen weren't shut. It would blow open.

We played in mud holes and played tag and "there ain't no bears out tonight." We made mud cakes and little brick stoves. I'd catch me a whole jar of toad frogs. I loved to bring them up and pour them out around our trees and watch them hop. There ain't a lot of frogs these days.

He taught me to fish and hunt and dig worms and catch crawfish. We dug mussels up with a crawfish net that Daddy made. We loved to open the shells and feed them to our chickens. We would crack them mussels open with a knife or screwdriver.

He got me in the chicken business. I still got mine, because of Daddy. I would go see him tending his chickens.

---

Letha Mae Humphrey and her husband, Julian, live in Snow Hill. They are members of Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation. She frequently writes directly from her heart to Carolina Country.



I had a hog, and she had some pigs. Daddy didn't like her much. She didn't have enough pigs to keep her, so he sold her off.

He would scrape corn to sell for food on our table. He raised a garden and picked peas for a friend for pay.

We put in tobacco, tied and stuck it and pressed it to market it. Lord have mercy! When tobacco season got over, we caught jars of tobacco worms out of the fields.

We had time to fish and slide down the ditches. We had a stream to cool our feet when they got hot and tired.

We always got stove wood for Mama. Daddy chopped it all for our wood heater. Before the rain came, he dragged long trees up out of the woods. When it snowed, Daddy never came in to warm himself at all, 'til he quit cutting. He let each of us girls warm up. He was a caring daddy. Mama sat to the fire with our smaller siblings. Our little hands were cold, and all we had to wear were socks, and the ice froze our little hands right through them. We held them over our heater, like Laura and Mary Ingalls would do, to thaw them up by blowing on them.

Daddy didn't own a car. He walked. I miss walking with him and our talks. I miss our Christmases and fruit stockings, our tree, our gifts that Daddy laid out in a pile.

Daddy has gone to heaven now. The gift he left for me was love for others, kindness, sharing, respect, and helping others.

Give your Daddy a hug today.



Oh dear Daddy where art thou?  
Your footsteps are gone with the wind.  
Your spit jars toss out.  
Not a trace of my Daddy.  
They say you died.  
Your soul can't rest  
'cause you never got to say good-bye  
to your lover  
nor your children.  
Your barn yarns for your touch  
just to hear a hammer and nails.  
Your hoe rusts with no oil now.  
Your dog's soul is dead.  
He cannot hear your voice.  
The wind, rain and sun that beat down on your brow  
just goes about its business.  
The bed you shared just sits in the corner.  
Mama can't bear to sleep on it without your arms about  
her.  
Daddy, your coats, your caps, your socks,  
they are nothing without you to wear them.  
The trees, the grapevines, the gardens  
have no one to come tend them.  
Where are you? Where did you go?  
Home to be with Jesus.  
Daddy, I need to go fishing with you again.  
Take my hand.

Teach me to hunt, I forget it's been so long.  
Daddy, I can't find you.  
I can't see your tracks, they are gone.  
God, please take good care of my Daddy  
'cause I sure could use his advice from time  
to time.  
Daddy, do I really light up your life?  
You sure did light mine.

*Love, Mae.*

---

*Daddy was a hunter. He had lots of coon  
dogs and hunting partners who would  
come after him.*





# First Flight

Art by Bob Timberlake

In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first successful powered flight at Kitty Hawk on Dec. 17, 1903, the Timberlake Gallery is offering a signed-only reproduction entitled "First Flight."

The reproduction is available at the Timberlake Galleries in Lexington and Blowing Rock, through authorized Timberlake dealers, and by mail order.

"First Flight" has an image area of 9 by 22½ inches on paper stock measuring 14½ by 26½ inches. It has hand-deckled edges, a debossed panel around the image and Bob Timberlake's embossed signature. The artist signs each one.

Orders will be accepted through Dec. 17, 2003. Contact the Timberlake Gallery at (800) 244-0095. Web site: [www.bobtimberlake.com](http://www.bobtimberlake.com)



# New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

**Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.**

**Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.**

**ORLANDO, FL**— A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.



by Charlie Allen

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

Fish would probably prefer to see it restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new lure (called The KickTail™) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait). The four using the KickTail caught



**Inventor Scott Wilson lands a 10-pounder.**

41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail won 19 to 4. The KickTail also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tournaments. An

almost 3 to 1 advantage can mean thousands of dollars to a fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.

The KickTail's magic comes from a patent-pending technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water rushes by on retrieval, a little-known



**New lure swims like a real fish--nearly triples catch in Florida contest.**

principle called aeronautical flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this.

"Fish attack live things, and they determine if something is alive by watching its movements. Marine biologists will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail doesn't do is breathe. It's better than live bait! It lasts longer and it never hangs half-dead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail. It's like having another potato chip.

## Increases catch almost 3 to 1.

"To make the KickTail even more lifelike, we gave it a natural shad color and shaped it like the most prevalent bait fish of all, the threadfin. Game fish gobble up more threadfin shad than any other baitfish.

"We knew the KickTail would out-fish other lures. It had to. Other lures wobble their heads and swim on an angle. But 41 fish to 14? That's huge! I tell you, in ten seconds anyone who has fished a day in his life knows this little swimmer's a home run. Fishermen reserved thousands of KickTails before we produced it! Here, reel it in and watch it swim toward you. Can you tell

the difference between it and a live fish? (I said no.) Neither can the fish.

"The flutter technology also allows the KickTail to swim at the water's surface. Other top water lures must be worked to have any live action, or have a bill that makes them dive on retrieval. Our diver version is the only deep crank bait that let's you do tricks like 'walk the dog.' Twitch it at deep levels and it gives an irresistible, lifelike action. Other lures 'dig.' And there's no need for rattles. The five tail segments click together as you pull it through the water, calling fish from a distance."

Whether you fish for fun or profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard for fishing lily pads and other feeding spots. The company says it's the only hard bait of its kind in existence. Each lure costs \$9.95 and you must order at least two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only \$79.95, a savings of almost \$20.00. S/h is only \$6.00 no matter how many you order.

To order call **1-800-873-4415** or click **www.ngcsports.com** anytime or day or send a check or M.O. (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (Dept. KT-596), 60 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. CT add sales tax. The KickTail is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water.

KTS-5 © NGC Worldwide, Inc. 2003 Dept. KT 596



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## What's up with the state flag?



North Carolina's state flag sports two dates, and one date is controversial. The first date, May 20, 1775, refers to the Mecklenburgh Declaration of Independence, created by Mecklenburgh (the old spelling) County delegates who convened in Charlotte. The main evidence of the Declaration is a reproduction made from memory many years later by one of the delegates. Many historians are suspicious about the Declaration's authenticity because of the lack of solid documentation. The second date, April 12, 1776, commemorates the landmark Halifax Resolves, when N.C. delegates at the Fourth Provincial Congress demanded unconditional freedom from foreign power. Efforts have been made to have the May 20, 1775 date taken off the flag, but so far they have been fruitless. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed by 13 colonies in the Continental Congress at Philadelphia.

## TECHKNOW POWER

When people hear the word "technology," they often think of modern cell phones or computers. But the definition of technology is actually "the practical application of knowledge, especially in a particular area" (Webster's tenth edition). So it can be new or old. Take canning. Canning was pioneered in the 1790s when a French confectioner discovered that the application of heat to food in sealed glass bottles preserved food. Early explorers relied on canned foods in their quest to reach new lands. Today, people still rely on the time-honored practice to feed their families.

Here in North Carolina, June and July are prime canning months. Cooks can meats, beans, fruits and vegetables to store in their pantries and to compete in 4-H and state fairs.

### Classroom chuckle

What was the craziest battle of the Revolutionary War?

Answer: The Battle of Bonkers Hill.

## Sites to See

### Moore's Creek National Battlefield

Moore's Creek National Battlefield in Currie marks the Feb. 27, 1776, victory when roughly 1,000 patriots prevailed over 1,600 loyalists at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. This key Revolutionary War battle raised morale for the colonies and ended British plans for an invading force to land in Brunswick. The 88-acre park, about 20 miles northwest of Wilmington, has a visitor center, education center, rest rooms and two trails. Guided tours and Colonial living demonstrations for schools are available with reservations, as well as a free teaching guide for use in fourth and eighth grade classes. Call (910) 283-5591 or visit [www.nps.gov/mocr](http://www.nps.gov/mocr).

### Scotts Heritage Day June 7

About 1,000 people typically attend the annual celebration of North Carolina Highland Scots and their involvement in the Battle of Moore's Creek. Scots Heritage Day, held at Moore's Creek National Battlefield, is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Activities include traditional Highland music, bagpipe playing, Scottish cooking demonstrations, and broadsword demonstrations. Scouting and school groups are welcome. Call (910) 283-5591.



### DUSTY, SQUIRMY WORMS

You can use canned or fresh tomato sauce or olive oil for this simple recipe. For a chunkier sauce, cut up a cup of stewed tomatoes. Another popular canned item, instead of the olive oil or sauce.

#### INGREDIENTS:

1 pound spaghetti  
4 gloves garlic, minced (cut up in small pieces)  
1/8 cup olive oil or 1 cup tomato sauce  
Parmesan cheese

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Cook the spaghetti according to package directions. Drain the pasta carefully using a colander or the edge of a pot lid, and put it in a large bowl. Mix in the olive oil or spoon tomato sauce over top of the worms (some folks call them noodles). Have your family add the dust (Parmesan cheese) to their individual bowls of fresh worms.

*Enjoy!*

## Did you know ...?

...how the community of Worry was named? According to local legend, a Jane Elizabeth Caldwell submitted several names for this tiny community about 6 miles northwest of Morganton in Burke County. All the names were soundly rejected, so Caldwell was, well, getting worried. She suggested it be named Worry, and it was finally approved.

## CHECK IT OUT!

### Flag history

This site includes information about the ratification of our state flag. <http://statelibrary.dcr.state.nc.us/nc/symbols/FLAG.HTM>

### Canning

This site by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service offers comprehensive how-to instructions for canning a wide variety of foods. <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/foodsci/ext/pubs/canning.html>



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# Phone etics

ABC 2	DEF 3	GHI 4	JKL 5
MNO 6	PQRS 7	TUV 8	WXYZ 9

## IT'S A FACT

Andrew Jackson was once a member of the 7 6 9 2 6 2 6 8 6 8 9 bar.

If you were to punch in the numbers above on your telephone pad, you would spell out the two missing words.

## MATCH BOXES

© Charles Joyner 2003

Solve this division problem and write your answer in the box tops. Then match boxes to find three hidden words.


8	8	3	2	1	0	0	5	7	2	6	1	0	6	2	4
R	R	W	E	D	I	I	A	N	E	S	D	I	S	E	V

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS(?)

"Good shot, Pop! Bet you can't do it again."  
- William Tell, Jr.

## MATH words

Letters have been substituted for digits in this division puzzle. Given E=7, can you replace the digits that get the FAT out of the FIRE?

$$\begin{array}{r}
 \text{FAT} \\
 \text{E} \overline{) \text{FIRE}} \\
 \underline{7} \phantom{00} \phantom{00} \phantom{00} \phantom{00} \phantom{00} \\
 \text{TO} \\
 \underline{\phantom{00}} \\
 \text{MR} \\
 \phantom{00} \underline{\phantom{00}} \\
 \text{MR} \\
 \phantom{000} \underline{\phantom{000}} \\
 \phantom{000} \text{E} \\
 \phantom{000} \underline{7} \\
 \phantom{000} \text{E} \\
 \phantom{000} \underline{7}
 \end{array}$$

### Percy P. Cassidy

### Poles Apart



He thinks the world is his oyster.



a c s b e s d l

e s l

l a c b b r m l a

Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.

"A E F H I L S W Y" means  
s c r a m b l e d

Answers on page 33





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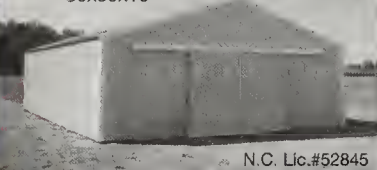
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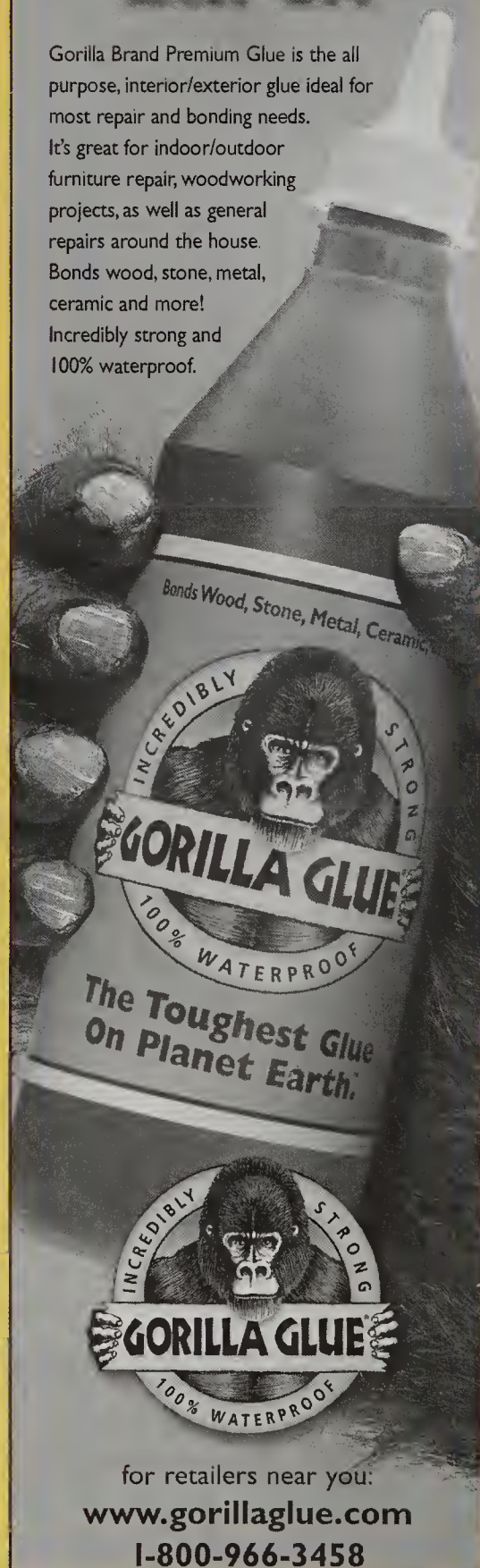
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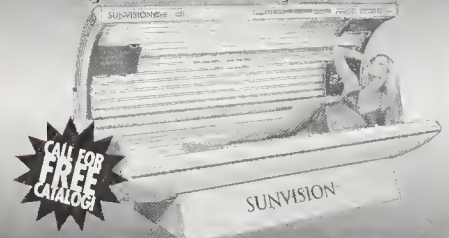
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# June *EVENTS*

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[www.hickorymetro.com](http://www.hickorymetro.com)

### Live Music

Saturdays, Sundays. Spruce Pine. Free. (888) 765-9531.

[www.altapassorchard.com](http://www.altapassorchard.com)

### Pickin in the Park

Fridays. Canton.  
(828) 648-7925.

[www.cantonpapertown.com](http://www.cantonpapertown.com)

### Rose Show

May 31-June 1. Asheville.  
Free. (828) 665-2492.

### Home and Garden Tour

June 7. Hickory.  
(800) 509-2444.

[www.hickorymetro.com](http://www.hickorymetro.com)

### Beach Blast

June 7. Kings Mountain.  
(704) 730-2103.

### Canoe Race

June 7. Jefferson.  
(336) 219-2650.

### Revolutionary War Re-enactment

June 7-8. Lincolnton.  
(704) 736-8442.

### Carl Sandburg Celebration

June 7. Hendersonville.  
(828) 693-4178.

### Art in the Park

June 7. Blowing Rock.  
(828) 295-7851.

### Stories of Altapass

June 13. Spruce Pine.  
(888) 765-9531.

[www.altapassorchard.com](http://www.altapassorchard.com)

### Miniature Horse Race

June 14. Taylorsville.  
Free. (828) 632-3043.

### Bluegrass Festival

June 19-20. Murfreesboro.  
(252) 398-3106.

### Triathlon

June 21. Kings Mountain.  
(704) 730-2103.

### All-Day Gospel Sing

June 22. Linville.  
Free. (800) 468-7325.

[www.grandfather.com/events/singing.htm](http://www.grandfather.com/events/singing.htm)

### Kiln Opening

June 28. Blowing Rock.  
(828) 295-3862.

[www.traditionspottery.com](http://www.traditionspottery.com)

### Appalachian Festival

June 27-July 26. Boone.  
(800) 841-2787.

[www.appsummer.org](http://www.appsummer.org)

### Cradle of Forestry

Ongoing. Brevard.  
June 7, Salamanders • June 21, Wetlands Walk • June 28, Bug Day • (828) 877-3130.

[www.cradleofforestry.com](http://www.cradleofforestry.com)

### Schiele Museum

Ongoing. Gastonia.  
(704) 866-6909.

[www.schielemuseum.org](http://www.schielemuseum.org)

### Asheville Art Museum

Ongoing. Asheville.  
(828) 253-3227.

[www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org)

### Smith-McDowell House Museum

Through Aug. 24, World War I aviator. (828) 253-9231.

[www.wnchistory.org](http://www.wnchistory.org)

## PIEDMONT

(between I-77 and I-95)

### Alive After Five

Thursdays. Winston-Salem.  
(336) 725-1083.

[www.winstonsalemevents.org](http://www.winstonsalemevents.org)

### Jazz & Blues

Fridays. Winston-Salem.  
Free. (336) 725.1083.

[www.winstonsalemevents.org](http://www.winstonsalemevents.org)

### Arts Showcase

Saturdays. Winston-Salem.  
Free. (336) 725-1083.

[www.winstonsalemevents.org](http://www.winstonsalemevents.org)

### Country & Oldies Show

Saturdays. Liberty.  
(336) 622-4813.

[www.LibertyJubilee.com](http://www.LibertyJubilee.com)

### Mojos Working

June 1. Durham.  
Free. (919) 683-1709.

[www.hayti.org](http://www.hayti.org)

### Production for Youth

June 1-3. Fayetteville.  
(910) 678-7186.

### Gallery Hop

June 6. Winston-Salem.  
Free. (336) 722-2345.

### "Joseph and Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat"

June 6-June 14. Raleigh.  
(919) 821-3111.

[www.raleighlittletheatre.org](http://www.raleighlittletheatre.org)

### Blueberry Festival

June 7. Ammons.  
(910) 588-6151.

### Wine Festival

June 7. Winston-Salem.  
(336) 725-1083. [www.yvwt.org](http://www.yvwt.org)

### Pond O-Mania

June 7. Fayetteville.  
Free. (910) 485-5121.

### Pottery Festival

June 7. Eden. (336) 623-2110.

### Kruger Bros Bluegrass

June 7. Yadkinville.  
(336) 679-2941.

### Herb & Craft Fest

June 7. Durham.  
(919) 477-5498.

### Edible Arts

June 8. Durham.  
(919) 560-2787

[www.durhamarts.org](http://www.durhamarts.org)

### Moravian Music Festival

June 8-14. Winston-Salem.  
(336) 725-0651.

[www.moravianmusic.org](http://www.moravianmusic.org)

### "Georgia O'Keefe"

June 13-27. Fayetteville.  
(910) 485-5121.

### "Side by Side"

June 12-29. Sanford.  
(919) 774-4155.

[www.templeshows.com](http://www.templeshows.com)

### Antique Festival

June 13-14. Albemarle.  
(704) 982-6707.

*continued on p. 36*



*A free, all-day gospel sing will be held at Grandfather Mountain on June 22. Featured performers include The Greenes, The Primitive, Michael Combs, the Cockman Family, the Beene Family, the Comptons, Soul Purpose, Joyful Hearts, the Dowden Sisters, Safe Harbor, the Bumbough Family, and Southern Accent. Call (800) 468-7325 or visit [www.grandfather.com/events/singing.htm](http://www.grandfather.com/events/singing.htm).*



## JUNE EVENTS

continued from p. 35

### Family Evening

June 13. Winston-Salem.  
Free. (336) 924-8191.  
[www.bethabarapark.org](http://www.bethabarapark.org)

### Comedy about Art

June 13-15, 19-22.  
Winston-Salem.  
(336) 768-5655.

### Frank Sinatra Tribute

June 13-29. Fayetteville.  
(910) 323-4234.

### Backyard Blues

June 14. Winston-Salem.  
(336) 725-1904. [www.secca.org](http://www.secca.org)

### Art Show

June 14. Winston-Salem.  
Free. (336) 764-0226.

### Outdoor Jazz

June 16. Southern Pines.  
(910) 692-3799.

### After Five Concert

June 19. Fayetteville.  
Free. (910) 485-5121.

### Bluegrass Festival

June 19-21. Roxboro.  
(336) 599-7387.

### Hog Day

June 20-21. Hillsborough.  
(919) 732-8156.  
[www.hogdays.com](http://www.hogdays.com)

### Elkin Big Band

June 21. Yadkinville.  
(336) 679-2941.

### Governor's Cup Regatta

June 21-22. Kerr Lake.  
(919) 968-1223.

### Comedy Evening

June 21. Raleigh.  
(919) 821-3111.  
[www.fairlighttheatre.org](http://www.fairlighttheatre.org)

### ClydeFest

June 21. Siler City.  
(919) 542-0394.

### Ford Car Show

June 21. Spencer.  
(704) 636-2889.

### Concert Series

Starting June 26. Durham.  
(919) 682-2800  
<http://downtowndurham.org>

### Learning To Fly

June 28. Spencer.  
(704) 636-2889.  
[www.nctrans.org](http://www.nctrans.org)

### The Voltage Brothers

June 28. Dobson.  
(336) 366-4758.

### Puppet Show

June 28. Kernersville.  
(336) 996-7922.  
[www.kornersfolly.org](http://www.kornersfolly.org)

### Oakboro Regional Museum

Ongoing. Oakboro. "Ancient Life on Rocky River" • Through June 24, "Marriage, 20th Century Style" • Free.  
(704) 485-3612.

### Granville County Historical Society Museum

Ongoing. Oxford. Through July 27, "Freedom is not Free: The Korean War." (919) 693-9706.

### Museum of Life and Science

Ongoing. Durham.  
June 7-Aug, moving sculptures.  
(919) 220-5429. [www.ncmls.org](http://www.ncmls.org)

### N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences

Ongoing. Raleigh. Free.  
(919) 733-7450.  
[www.naturalsciences.org](http://www.naturalsciences.org)

### N.C. Museum of History

Ongoing. Raleigh. Southern Furniture, through June 15 • Through Sept., "Flashback to 60s" (919) 715-0200.  
[www.ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://www.ncmuseumofhistory.org)

### Chapel Hill Museum

Ongoing. Chapel Hill.  
(919) 967-1400.  
[www.chapelhillmuseum.org](http://www.chapelhillmuseum.org)

### Fayetteville Museum of Art

Ongoing. Fayetteville.  
Through June, flying exhibits, African artifacts.  
(910) 485-5121.



A MASH operating room, command field tent, weapons, medals, uniforms, death notices and memorabilia are featured in "Freedom is Not Free: The Korean War," a recently opened exhibit at the Granville County Historical Society Museum in Oxford. A special section honoring Granville County veterans with photographs and names. The exhibit, free to the public, is scheduled to run through July 27. The museum is open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call (919) 693-9706.

### Charlotte Museum of History

Ongoing. Charlotte.  
June 7, "Vacationland" • Through June 8, "Highways and Byways" • Through September 2004, "Soldiers' Stories" • (704) 568-1774.  
[www.charlottemuseum.org](http://www.charlottemuseum.org)

### Mint Museum of Art

Ongoing. Charlotte.  
Through June 1, "Edward Hopper." (704) 337-2009.  
[www.mintmuseum.org](http://www.mintmuseum.org)

### Discovery Place

Ongoing. Charlotte.  
"Top Speed" • Heart Exhibit. • Through Sept. 1, "Playing with Time" • (704) 372-6261.  
[www.discoveryplace.org](http://www.discoveryplace.org)

## COAST

(east of I-95)

### Paddle Days

May 31-June 1. Windsor.  
(252) 830-6375.

### FUN-damental Flight

June 1-20. Wilmington.  
(910) 254-3534. [www.wilmingtonchildrensmuseum.org](http://www.wilmingtonchildrensmuseum.org)

### Concerts in Park

Fridays. Morehead City.  
Free. (252) 726-5083.

### "Chicago"

June 4-8, 13-15, 21-22, 27-29.  
Wilmington. (910) 762-4234.  
[www.operahousetheatre.net](http://www.operahousetheatre.net)

### N.C. Symphony

June 5. Manteo.  
Free. (252) 475-1506  
[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

### Shakespeare Festival

June 6-8, 13-15. Wilmington.  
(910) 341-7855.

### Flight Fly-In

June 6-8. Edenton.  
(252) 482-4664.  
[www.edenton.com](http://www.edenton.com)

### Waterfront Music

June 6. Elizabeth City. Free.  
(252) 335-4365.

### Jazz at Airlie

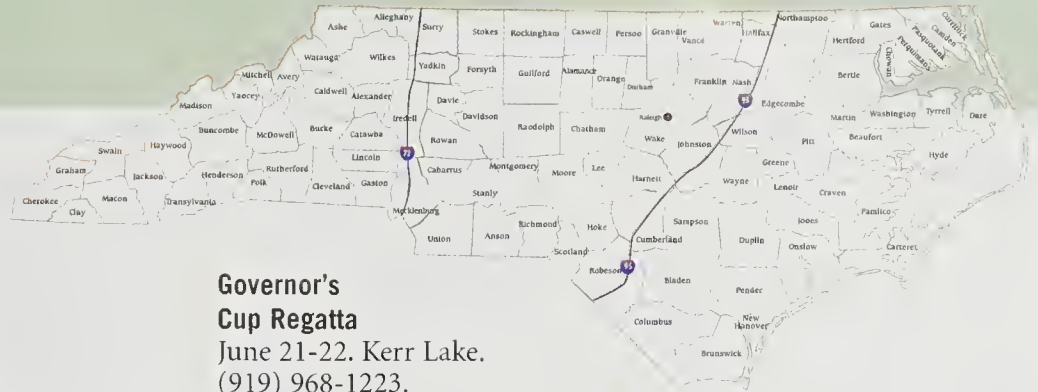
June 6. Wilmington.  
(910) 793-7531.  
[www.airliedgardens.org](http://www.airliedgardens.org)

### Rachel Carson Party

June 6. Beaufort.  
(252) 728-2170.



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[www.roanokeisland.com](http://www.roanokeisland.com)

**Bass Tournament**

June 7. Edenton.  
(252) 482-5343.

**Scots Heritage Day**

June 7. Currie. (910) 283-5591.  
[www.nps.gov/mocr](http://www.nps.gov/mocr)

**River Celebration**

June 7. Todd. (828) 262-0979.

**Early Settlers**

June 7. Creswell.  
(252) 797-4336.

**Neuse River Day**

June 7. New Bern.  
(252) 637-7972.

[www.neuseriver.org](http://www.neuseriver.org)

**Children's Art Festival**

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(910) 675-3533.

**Scots Heritage Day**

June 7. Currie. (910) 283-5591.  
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**Antique Fair**

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June 8-22. Elizabeth City.  
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**Bluegrass Concert**

June 8. Newbold.  
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June 11. Elizabeth City.  
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**Classic Horse Show**

June 12-14.  
Williamston.  
(704) 483-5000.

**Alive After Five**

June 13. New Bern.  
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[www.visitnewbern.com](http://www.visitnewbern.com)

**Gun & Knife Show**

June 14-15. Williamston.  
(252) 756-0555.

**Waterfront Celebration**

June 14. Elizabeth City.  
Free. (252) 331-2925.

**Music & Paddle Festival**

June 14. Edenton.  
(800) 775-0111.

**Community Music**

June 15. Edenton.  
(252) 482-4664.

[www.edenton.com](http://www.edenton.com)

**Sailboat Races**

June 15-21. Edenton.  
(800) 482-3400.

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**Alive After Five**

June 19. Williamston.  
Free. (252) 792-4361.

**Bluegrass Party**

June 19-21. Murfreesboro.  
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June 20-July 21. Hertford.  
(252) 426-3041.

**First Flight Fly-In**

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[www.ncfish.org](http://www.ncfish.org)

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[www.wilmingtonchildrensmuseum.com](http://www.wilmingtonchildrensmuseum.com)

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Ongoing. Wilmington.  
June 1, "19th-Century Food"  
• June 12-Sept 1, "Airplay"  
(910) 341-4350.

[www.capefearmuseum.com](http://www.capefearmuseum.com)

**Core Sound**
**Waterfowl Museum**

Ongoing. Harkers Island.  
June 21, "Molasses Creek"  
• Through July 6, "Island People"  
• (252) 728-1500.  
[www.coresound.com](http://www.coresound.com)

**Museum of Albemarle**

Ongoing. Elizabeth City.  
Through June 8, "Vintage Victorian" Free.  
(225) 335-1453.

**Home & Garden Tour**

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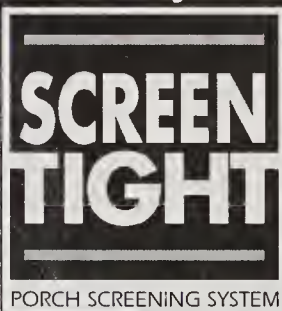
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#### GARDENING FOCUS

##### Transplanting Hydrangea

A large potted hydrangea can be planted in the garden to grow into a large shrubby plant. After blooms have faded, cut back about half their length. Remove plants from pot. Break up outside of the root ball by making three or four cuts through the edge of the ball with a sharp knife. Or soak ball in water. Then loosen soil and roots with your fingers. Plant in a garden spot with light shade.

**W**ith spring past, the gardener now approaches summer, meeting both considerable pleasure and problems with controlling insects, diseases and weeds. Use caution when applying nitrogen—too much is not good, especially in the vegetable garden. Also moisture levels need to be monitored for all plantings.

##### Vegetable Gardens

There's still time to make plantings of bush and lima beans, Southern peas, okra, summer and winter squash and sweet corn. Also now's the time to make in-between plantings of eggplant, pepper and tomato plants. During June, jump start seedlings of tomatoes, brussels sprouts and collards for an autumn crop. Mulch tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and other long-season crops. This helps keep down weeds and holds in moisture during the hot summer days ahead. Several materials are useful as mulch: old newspapers, shredded paper, fertilizer bags, old sawdust, leaves and pine straw. Mulching is well worth the trouble.

##### Propagating Azaleas, Camellias and Boxwoods

These choice shrubs can be rooted by taking cuttings in June and early July. Make cuttings from new wood that grew this season, using about three inches of tip growth. Slant base of cuttings, just beneath a growth bud. Remove leaves from lower half. For speedier rooting, treat base of cutting with Roottone. Plunge cuttings into sandy soil in a cool shady place, inserting up to leaf level. Keep sand moist at all times. Small plants may be left undisturbed for several seasons, or the new plants can be moved in the fall. A light winter mulch such as pine needles is advisable. This also is prime time to make cuttings of such soft-wood plants as coleus, geranium and begonia. Place these in a box of sand. Keep moist but not soaked. These make good indoor winter potted plants.

##### Fruitful Care

Blackberries, dewberries and raspberries should have this year's fruiting canes pruned out after the crop is harvested. Canes that fruit this year will die anyway. They're easier to remove while they are still green and before new canes



*Marigolds are among quick-growing annuals that can still be planted now. They germinate quickly and will display cheerful blooms for a good while before fall's killing frosts.*

get any larger. Cutting out old canes helps control diseases and insect pests. Fireblighted twigs on apples, pears and quince should be removed before cankers form. This removes potential sources of infection at blooming time next spring. Make all cuts well below killed area—at least three inches. Burn all prunings. Sterilize pruning shears after each cut by dipping in a solution of corrosive sublimate, available at a drug store. Or use a solution of chlorine bleach. Oil shears after using to prevent rust.

##### Quick Color

Most annuals are well into their blooming period, but some can be planted now and still have time to flower before the killing frosts of fall. Among the best to germinate quickly and grow fast are marigolds, cosmos, portulaca, sweet alyssum, zinnia, lobelia, candytuft and annual phlox. These give colorful displays and accents for the garden, often contributing late-season definition to fall chrysanthemums. To hasten flower formation, follow these five steps: (1) Scoop out a shallow depression and mix a teaspoonful of plant food into soil. (2) Cover fertilizer with about ½ inch of soil and sow three seeds in shallow holes. (3) Cover seed lightly with fine soil. If garden soil is heavy, mix sand into covering soil. (4) Sprinkle ground daily with a fine spray of water if there is no rainfall. When seedlings appear, thin out the two weakest plants. Discards may be planted elsewhere. The undisturbed plants will grow and flower first. (5) Fertilize plants when flowerbuds appear.



# Whole-house fans efficiently produce cool breeze

By James Dulley



**W**ith today's airtight, energy efficient homes, it is nice to bring in cool outdoor air whenever possible without driving up your utility bills. Using a whole house fan is probably the most effective and efficient means to quickly cool your home when the outdoor temperature drops overnight or when days are moderately warm.

Pulling fresh outdoor air into your house not only lowers temperature indoors, but it creates a gentle breeze similar to a ceiling paddle fan. With the air moving throughout your home and across your skin, you can feel five to 10 degrees cooler than in still air at the same temperature. Actually, just the sound of the moving air can have the psychological effect of making you feel cooler.

A whole-house fan is a large exhaust fan that is usually mounted in the attic floor. It is often located in a hallway ceiling to draw air from the entire house without creating drafts in the rooms. Since it is most often used at night, this location minimizes the noise level in the bedrooms. The fan draws outdoor air in through opened windows and exhausts the air into the attic area and out the attic vents.

A secondary benefit of using a whole-house fan is that the airflow from the house into the attic helps to quickly cool the attic and the roof. A hot attic and roof can radiate heat down

through the attic insulation to the living areas below. This will occur all day long and, without a fan, well into the evening until the roof and attic structure slowly cool down.

Using reflective attic foil stapled underneath the roof is a good combination with a whole-house fan. The foil will block the heat from the super-hot roof during the daytime when the whole-house fan is not often used. When you switch the fan on in the evening, the air is exhausted up between the foil and the roof to cool it.

Running a whole-house fan uses about 85 to 90 percent less electricity than operating a central air conditioner. Using one can easily save more than \$100 per year on your electric bills. Since your air conditioner

**Belt-driven fans can draw more air and are suitable for larger houses.**

is used less often, less maintenance is needed and its life will be longer.

Whenever the outdoor air temperature drops to about five degrees lower than your thermostat setting, running the whole-house fan should comfortably cool your house and create air movement indoors. This means you may run your central air conditioner during the daytime and run the whole-house fan at night.

There are many whole-house fan designs with various features from which to choose. For most average-sized homes, a direct-drive design is a good, easy-to-install choice. It has the motor located in the center of the housing with the fan blades attached directly to the motor shaft. The most quiet models use special vibration-blocking rubber hubs and sound-absorbing air flow shrouds to reduce the noise level to a whisper.

For larger houses that require a higher airflow capacity to cool them, a belt-drive model is often used. With this design, the motor is mounted on the corner of the housing frame. A belt runs from a pulley on the motor to a pulley on the fan blade hub. With the motor out of the airflow path and a larger unobstructed blade diameter, the airflow can be greater. These often use a steeper blade pitch and run at a lower speed to further reduce the noise level.

When sizing a whole-house fan, a good rule of thumb is the airflow rating in cubic feet per minute should be three times your house's size in square feet. If you choose a model with two or variable speeds, you can install a larger, higher capacity fan. This will allow you to run it on high speed initially to quickly cool your house and then set it to the correct continuous speed for your house size.

For the greatest convenience, choose one with a built-in timer, thermostat or humidistat for automatic operation. Some automatically switch from high to low speed after 30 minutes. Most models offer air-sealing shutters to seal off the fan when it is not running. Motorized insulated shutters, to block winter heat loss more effectively, are also available on some efficient two-motor models.

Write for (instantly download - [www.dulley.com](http://www.dulley.com)) Utility Bills Update No. 641 - buyer's guide of eight whole-house fan manufacturers (28 models) listing diameters, airflow capacities, speeds, drive types, wattages, features, prices, and do-it-yourself instructions. Please include \$3.00



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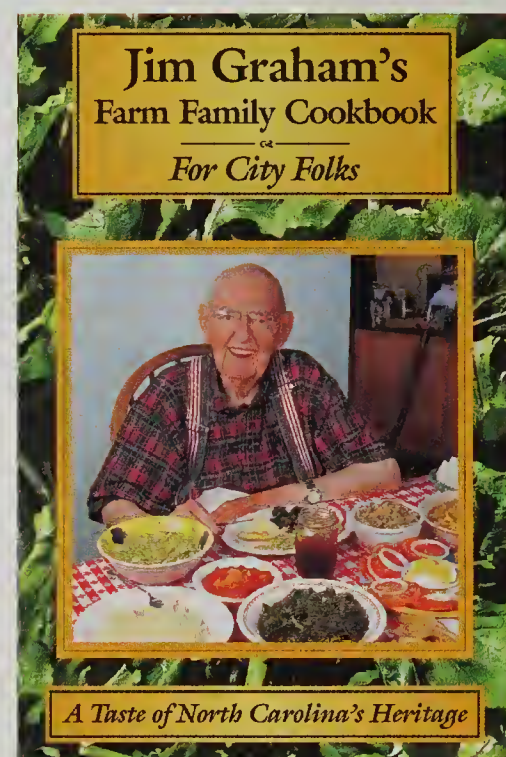
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# Recipes from "A Taste of North Carolina's Heritage"

*Jim Graham's farm family cookbook for city folks*

Former state Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham, a longtime friend of rural North Carolina and the electric cooperatives, has blessed this set of old-fashioned farm family recipes. The 6¼ by 8 ½ inch hardcover book with comb binding contains more than 500 recipes gathered by N.C. Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau cooks. All proceeds benefit The Jim Graham Scholarship Fund at North Carolina State University. Price: \$19.95. Find it or order it at your local bookstore, or from Alexander Books at (800) 472-0438. Web: [www.abooks.com/cookbook](http://www.abooks.com/cookbook)



## Caramel Nut Pound Cake

- 2 sticks butter, room temperature
- ½ cup Crisco shortening
- 1 16-ounce box light brown sugar
- 1 cup white sugar
- 5 eggs
- 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chopped pecans (I always toast them)
- Icing:
- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup Half & Half dairy creamer
- 1 stick butter

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F. Cream butter and Crisco shortening. Add brown sugar, and cream ingredients. Add white sugar, and cream until fluffy. Add eggs one at a time. Mix dry ingredients together. Set aside 2 tablespoons of flour mixture to toss with nuts. Add flour mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour. Add vanilla. Stir in nuts. Bake at 325 degrees F. for approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Cool cake in pan for 15 minutes before turning out, let while warm. Prepare icing: In a saucepan, combine first three ingredients. Heat, stirring frequently, until mixture reaches soft ball stage, 325 degrees F. Pour hot mixture over stick of butter in mixer bowl. Stir to melt. Beat until ready to spread.

## Buttermilk Salad

- 1 large can crushed pineapple
- 6 ounces Jell-O, any flavor
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1 9-ounce carton Cool Whip

Place pineapple in bowl that can be heated. Sprinkle on Jell-O, and heat for 4 to 5 minutes but not to boiling. Remove from heat, and cool. Stir in buttermilk and Cool Whip. Store in covered container in refrigerator until ready to serve.

## Asparagus Casserole

- 4 15-ounce cans, cut asparagus, drained (reserve liquid)
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 4 tablespoons flour
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 pound sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 2-ounce jar sliced pimientos, drained
- 30 Ritz crackers
- ¼ cup slivered almonds

Preheat oven. Place drained asparagus in 13 by 9-inch baking dish. Melt butter in saucepan; blend in flour. Gradually stir in half the reserved asparagus liquid. Bring sauce to a boil; stir constantly until thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Then add cheese, pimientos, and remaining asparagus liquid. Pour sauce over asparagus. Mix lightly and carefully. Sprinkle with cracker crumbs and almonds. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes. Serves 10 to 12. Note: This dish may be prepared ahead of time, but do not add almonds until just before baking.

## Layered Cabbage Salad

- 1 large head green cabbage, shredded
- 1 large sweet onion, chopped
- 1 large sweet green pepper, chopped
- 1 cup sugar
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon celery seed

Shred cabbage, placing half of it in a bowl. Reserve the other half. Sprinkle chopped onion over cabbage. Sprinkle chopped green pepper over onion. Top with remaining cabbage. Sprinkle sugar over the top of cabbage. Do not stir. Bring oil, vinegar, salt and celery seed to a full boil, and pour this hot mixture over the cabbage mixture. Do not stir! Cover container, and place in refrigerator overnight. Next day, stir well. This will keep for 10 days or longer in the refrigerator.

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